

this is the harry mandir the world's

largest free kitchen

it serves free vegetarian food to about

100000 people every day it's also the

holiest site in sikhism



the fifth largest and youngest of the



world religions

a religion that preaches about love

peace and the equality of
humankind

but also asks its followers
to carry

swords

so who are the six what do they believe

and why

does everyone confuse them for muslims

well

let's find out



sikhism originated in the punjab area of

india and pakistan

500 years ago the punjab the land of

five rivers

is one of the most historically and

culturally dense areas on earth

this was the home of one of the world's

earliest civilizations

the indus valley civilization persians

greeks central asians muggles the

british and others have all

invaded here i meant i meant
mughals

mughal mughals invaded here hinduism

buddhism

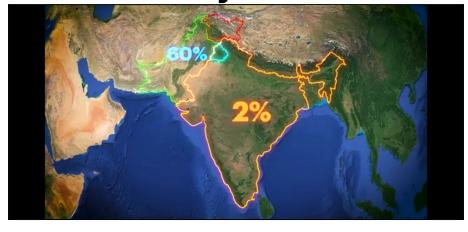
islam jainism and a handful of other

fates have

all left their mark on the region the

diverse culture of the punjab

has heavily influenced the sikhs today



there are about 25 million sikhs

they make up about two percent of

india's population but about

sixty percent of the punjabs the sikh

diaspora is spread out across the world

with concentrations in the uk

canada the us east africa australia and

malaysia

siks interestingly enough make up about



1.5 percent of canada's population

which is second only to india the word

sikh means learner sikhs call their

religion sikhi

gorsikhi and gormat you can't really

understand the sikhs without

understanding their relationship with

gurus

the word guru means a teacher or

spiritual guide

the guru teaches and the sikh learns the

sikhs

follow the teachings of 10 succeeding



gurus that have shaped sikhism

the first and most important guru is

guru nanak



the founder of sikhism born in 1469 ce

near wallace today

lahore pakistan nanak was seen as

special even as a child

as a teenager he preferred to listen to

hindu saints and sufi muslim preachers

rather than his own parents as an adult

nanak would settle in sultanpur

where he worked for the government the

actions of his fellow government

officials

and the rich and powerful disgusted them

as they exploited

ordinary working people and he hated the

cast divisions that he saw all around

him

one day while bathing in a river near

sultanpur nanak had a miraculous

experience

he was swept up into god's court where

god spoke to him

nanak reappeared three days later

declaring there is no hindu

and there is no muslim there was only

god this was a message
inspired by his

experience with god

one that spoke in favor of the equality

of humankind

and against caste ethnic and religious

divisions

nanak would later say accept all humans

as your equals

and let them be your only sect

nine human gurus followed nanak all

preaching the same message of one god

and the equality of humankind

two fundamental events that shaped seek

history

was the martyrdom of two gurus the first

was the fifth guru



guru arjan who was roasted live by the

mughal emperor

jahangir the next murder will be the

ninth guru



guru tegh bahadur he was beheaded by the

mughals while attempting to defend

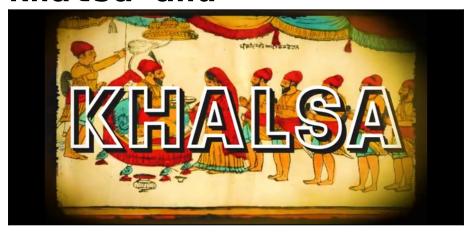
the religious rights of hindus his son

guru gobind rai

the tenth and final human guru started a

new

sikh community called the khalsa and



ended the line of human gurus by making

the guru grant sahib



the sikh holy book the last living guru

we'll take a closer look at both of

these in a bit

so with that brief history out of the

way let's take a look at the core

beliefs of sikhism

1. one god the sikh holy book

the guru granth sahib's opening sentence

is just

two words ik onkar there is only

one god nanak made sure it was clear

that the focus was on

one ick doesn't just mean one
it is

literally

the numeral one one god is by far the

most

important belief in sikhism
this may not

be the kind of god you're used to though

sikhs believe in a formless genderless

universal god

beyond description this god is all of

reality

and is within everything they believe

no idol or image could ever represent

this being so they use the sacred symbol

of ikonkar



to represent it instead many sikhs refer

to this one god



by the name wahe guru wondrous lord guru

nanak and his followers

constantly emphasized that this one

could be understood in many different



ways

no religion had a monopoly on the truth

the next one

could be known as vishnu allah the tao

yahweh

the algorithm or any other name or

belief there was no need to fight

over whose god was the true god as they

were all

the same one recognize

all mankind whether muslim or hindu as

one

the same god is the creator and

nourisher of all

recognize no distinctions among them the

temple and the mosque are the same

so are hindu worship and muslim prayer

human beings are all one

guru gobind singh the lack of agenda for

this one god means that there is no

difference between men and



women in

sikhism sikhism was among the first

major world religions

to make the radical suggestion that

women are people too women in sikhism

have fought battles



led religious services and even acted as

some of the longest reigning leaders of

the entire community

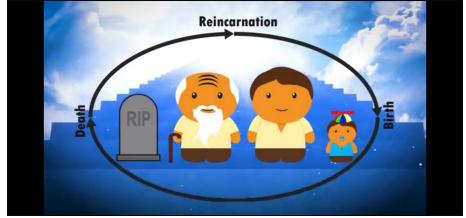
sikhism isn't based on doing things to

get into some heaven or hell

hell is just life on earth which your

soul is

constantly reborn into after you die



which is a

pretty dark you see sikhs believe in reincarnation

and karma similar to buddhists hindus

and jains

but sikhs believe that karma
is modified

by god

as in karma might decide what life

you're born into

but god makes sure that anyone can

become a good person

in their lifetime if they try the goal

of sikhs life is to break free from the

cycle of rebirth

by merging your soul back
into god's

soul one

does this by realizing that you are

already a part of god

you just need to let go of your ego when

your soul re-merges back into gods

this is called mukti which is similar to

hinduism's moksha



and means liberation when you remerge

your soul is released from the cycle of

rebirth and death

and becomes infinite timeless
and

blissful

this is the closest thing sikhs have to

heaven

two maya sikhs believe that god

is and created reality but we forget

this because humans are distracted by

illusion

or maya which is anything that takes

your mind off god

maya keeps people trapped in the cycle

of rebirth and death guru and the neck

thought that maya built a wall between

people and god

the wall of maya is built with the five

thieves lust

anger greed attachment and
pride it is

the duty of all sikhs to avoid these

thieves the five

thieves are caused by how my literally i

myself how am i makes people say i am

this

i am that and that separates you from

others which blocks you from realizing

your oneness

with god this ego causes people to live

only for themselves

to spew negativity and the crave power

and wealth

such a person is called manmukh facing

towards desires

guru nanak saw the world's problems as

the negative effects of ego

hindu versus muslim israeli versus

palestinian

all of these conflicts are caused

by ego

and maya the guru granth sahib said it is

not religion

or race but it is wealth that divides

brothers but guru nanak taught that

there was an other direction people

could face

by being a spiritual person practicing

compassion

truth contentment humility and love and

meditating on god

you could instead become gurmukh facing

towards the guru how does one become

Gurmukh and igoless

well sikhism offers a path to follow

that can help called

the three pillars three three



pillars

the three pillars are one

nam japo which is meditation on god and

the reciting and chanting of god's name

waheguru this is normally done in the

morning and before bed

this isn't supposed to just be some

mindless ritual either six

are supposed to genuinely reflect on the

qualities of god

as they do this 2. kirat kearny working

hard

and making an honest living guru nanak

said only he

who earns his living by the sweat of his

brow and shares his earnings with others

has discovered the path of righteousness

three

wand chakna this is sharing the fruits

of your labor with others



providing free food and donating to the

community the sikh tradition of a

communal meal or longer at the gurdwaras

is a part of wand chakna the longer or

communal free kitchen inside of a sikh

gurdwara which is their equivalent of a

mosque or church

is open to all who visit regardless of

caste faith or gender

these serve vegetarian food to all not

because sikhs have to be vegetarian

but simply because that means all people

of all diets can partake

so if you want to taste typical punjabi

food just go visit a gurdwara in guru

the next time

the idea of different castes sitting

together on the floor and eating

side by side was a revolutionary act

famously the mughal emperor akbar

visited guru arjun and the guru would

not meet with him

until he partook in a lunger which the

emperor did sitting side by
side with

peasants

guru nanak claim an enlightened person

are those who view

everyone equally like the air touching

the king and beggar alike

another vital part of sikhism
that isn't



lone of

the three pillars is

seva which is selfless service true

service to their community

sikhs can become more humble and overcome

their ego

seva can include cleaning of the

courtois preparing food

or cleaning dishes in the lunger or it

can include volunteering

building things for your community

remembering god's name

honest work and sharing along with

selfless service

and avoiding the five thieves a person

can rid themselves of egoism and be

released from the cycle of rebirth

and death 4. the khalsa guru gobind rai



was the son of the ninth guru

tegh bahadur who was beheaded by the

mughals and his body was abandoned by

his sikh

entourage they fled easily
because no

one could recognize them

so guru gobind decided to give sikhs a

distinct look

from now on so that they would always be

compelled uphold

sikh values so in 1699

guru gobind brought his sikhs together at



anandapur

after their morning prayer he stood in

front of a huge crowd and demanded a

human

sacrifice the shocked crowd was silent

for a while

before one sikh rose up and entered the

guru's tent the guru followed him in

and then the guru comes out with blood

on his sword he demands another

sacrifice

another sikhs offers themselves and

enters the tent again

only the guru comes back out of the tent

bloody sword in hand

again another sacrifice and again

and finally after the fifth sacrifice

the guru re-emerges



with the five sikh all wearing saffron

coloured robes

the guru declares that these are the

panj peyare the five beloved ones

they would form the center of a new sikh

community called the celta he offered

them

amrit a bowl of sweetened water and all

five who belonged to different cast

groups

drank the amrit from the same bowl which



would have been a

huge deal back then this signified they

had joined a new

castle family the khalsa each of these

volunteers had to leave behind their old

surnames

or cast names and adopt the same surname

singh which comes from the sanskrit word

simba meaning lion coincidence which is

great the guru then begged the five

beloved ones to let

him join their khalsa they offered him

the amrit and the guru became

guru gohbind singh women were admitted to

the culture the same way as men

after drinking the amrit they received

the surname kor meaning princess

the khalsa gave the sikhs a new unified

identity

tied together as one family with one

name without caste

with the goal of defending the weak and

promoting justice

today many sikhs still undergo the amret

ceremony and take the surnames

singh and kaur the cows they were also

given new

rules to follow which included the

wearing of the panj kakar



or the 5ks the first was kes which is

uncut hair to represent discipline the

second was kanga

a small comb in the hair the third was a

kirpan a sword to uphold justice

and protect the weak which is nowadays

usually a small sword it is importantly

not an offensive weapon and the sick

code of conduct

claims it can only be used to destroy

tyrants and oppressors

it must not be used for anything else

the fourth is kacahira kind of

loose-fitting boxer shorts to represent

the sexual restraint and the fifth

is kara a steel bracelet its circular

shape represents the





the guru grant sahib is the holy book of

the sikhs it contains the teachings of the

gurus and acts as a spiritual guide for

sikhs

around the world it is probably one of

the only holy books that contains not

only

the writings of the religion's founders

written by themselves

rather than after their death but also

the writing of people from

other religions writings of muslims and

hindus can be found

throughout along with references to

judaism buddhism

and christianity before his death in

1708 the 10th guru

guru gobind singh ended the line of

human gurus by bestowing guruship

on the adi granth turning it into the

guru

grant sahib making it similar
to both

the bible and quran

and the living prophet at the same time

to break down the name

the word guru means guru granth means

book and sahib

means lord since that moment the guru

grant sahib

has been revered as the current living

guru it is treated with extreme

respect and care oddly enough the granth

is not only read

but sung it's made up of thousands of

huymns

sikhs don't have mass or service but a

curtain

meaning communal singing normally these

are set to classical indian music

sixth the gurdwara sikh gather at

gurdwaras

a word meaning doorway to the guru a

gurdwara is only a gurdwara

because it has a copy of the guru grant

sahib in it men and women of all castes

and social standing

gather there to join in prayer singing

and eating this is where you'll find the

lunger

anyone can visit a cordoira
and partake

in the service and meal

you only need to follow basic etiquette

cover your head remove your shoes

wash your hands as you enter and do your

best not to bring any drugs or tobacco

inside

the most important cruduary in the world

is the harimander or golden temple

in amritsar india in 1604 guru arjun



completed work on the golden temple and

had the guru granth sahib

installed inside it as the gesture of

religious tolerance

guru arjun invited the muslim



mian mir

to lay the foundation stone of the

golden temple the temple has four

doors opening on all four sides to show

the openness to all

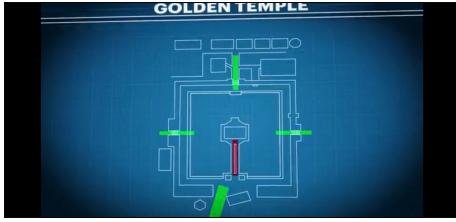
cultures and peoples but on the inside

only

one door leads the inner sanctum

indicating that all

paths and beliefs eventually lead to the



one god

the goldan temple is the most visited

place in the world with around

6 million visitors each year the longer

at the golden temple serves a free meal

to about 100000 people each day making it the

world's

largest free serving kitchen all run and

staffed by volunteers

and the waiting list to volunteer in the

golden temple has

hundreds of thousands of names on it



Five Takhats of Sikhism

"Takht" or "Takhata" literally translates to a throne or a seat of authority. It is a direct result of the great historical growth of Sikhism,

which is the primary religion in the northern regions of India. That said, Sikhs have made an impact not only across India, but also across the world.

Takht or Takhata ($\Pi\Pi\Pi\Pi$), which literally means a throne or seat of authority, are the spiritual & temporal centre of Sikhism. There are five Takhts and these Takhts are five gurudwaras which have a very special significance for the Sikh community. The first and the important one was established by Guru Hargobind in 1609. It is called 'Akal Takht' (the Throne of the Timeless God) and is situated just opposite the gate of Harmandir Sahib - The Golden Temple, Amritsar. While the Harmandir Sahib, or Golden

Temple, represents Sikh spiritual guidance, the Akal Takht symbolizes the dispensing of justice and temporal activity. It is the highest seat of temporal authority of the Khalsa and the seat of the Sikh religion's earthly authority. Here the Guru held his court and decided matters of military strategy and political policy. Later on, the Sikh Nation (Sarbat Khalsa) took decisions here on matters of peace and war and settled disputes between the various Sikh groups. The Sarangi singers sung the ballads of the Sikh Gurus and warriors at this place and robes of honour (saropas) were awarded to persons who rendered distinguished services of the community of men in general.

Five Takht of Sikhs

- 1. Akal Takht Sahib
- 2. Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib
- 3. Takht Sri Damdama Sahib
- 4. Takht Sri Patna Sahib
- 5. Takht Sri Hazur Sahib

52 Hukams of Guru Gobind Singh

The Sikh code of conduct, Rehat Maryada, is based on 52 hukams or edicts issued by Guru Gobind Singh in 1708 at Nanded before Guru Sahib re-joined God. The 52 hukamnamas or edicts giving instruction on appropriate behavior were written by order of Guru Gobind Singh and copied down by Baba Raam Singh Koer whose

great grandfather was Baba Buddha.

Guru Gobind Singh affixed his personal seal to the document, a copy of which can be seen at historic Gurdwara Paonta Sahib built on the Yamuna river banks in the town of Paonta Sahib of Sirmaur in Himachal Pradesh about 44 kilometers from Dehradun. These edicts sum up the ideal way of life of the Khalsa and serve as a code of conduct for the Khalsa Panth.

N		
0		Transliterati
•	Translation	on
	Work hard for	
1	your religion	Kirat dharam
•	(Sikhi).	dee karnee.

2	Donate a tenth share of your earnings.	Dasvand denaa.
3	Memorize Gurbani.	Gurbani kantth karnee.
4	Wake up at Amrit vela (before sunrise).	Amrit velā jaggana.
5	Serve the Guru's Sikh with love.	Pyar nal Gursikhan dee seva karnee.
6	Learn the meaning of Gurbani from the Guru's Sikhs.	Gursikhan passon Gurbani de arth samajhana.

7	Follow the discipline of the five K's (articles of faith) strictly.	Panj Kakkar dee rehit drirh rakhnee.
8	Practice (Guru's) Shabads.	Shabad da abhiaas karnaa.
9	Concentrate on the true guru (God).	Dhian sat- saroop satguru daa karna.
1 0	Believe in the true Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.	Satguru Sri Guru Granth Sahib Jee noo mananaa.
1 1 .	When undertaking any task, first perform the (prayer of)	Sabh kaarjaan dae arambh velae ardaas karnee.

	Ardās.	
1	For birth	Jaman,
2	naming,	maran, viah,
	funeral, or	anand, aad
	marriage	sumae japji
	ceremonies or	da paath kar
	devotional	ke karaah
	reading paath,	parsaadh tyar
	recite Japji	kar ke anand
	Sahib while	sahib da
	making Karah	paath, ardas
	Parshad,	kar ke, punj
	perform five	pyarian ate
	verses of Anand	atae
	Sahib, and	hazooree
	ardaas, and	granthee
	then distribute	singhan da
	Karah Prashad	vartara
	to the Panj	vartaar kae
	Pyare,	rakh opranth

	attending Granthi, and then to the sangat gathered for worship.	sangat noo varta dhena.
1 3 .	Until Karaah Parshaad has been served to everyone, the sangat (congregation) ought to remain seated.	Jad tak Karaah Parshaad vartadaa rahae sari sangat addol batthee rahae.
1 4	Without the Anand Karaj marriage ceremony, do not start married life.	Viah anand binaa grahist nahee karnaa.

1 5	Other than your wedded wife, consider all women as your mothers, sisters and daughters.	Par istree, ma bhain, dhee, kar jaananee.
1 6	Do not silence your wife.	Istree da mooh nahee phitkaarnaa.
1 7	Discard worldly ways, falsehoods, and poisonous tobacco.	Jagat-jooth tambaakoo bikhiaa da tiaag karnaa.
1 8 .	Make companions of Gursikhs who follow Rehat (code of conduct) and	Rehitvaan tae naam jupan vaalae gursikhan dee sangat karnee.

	recite God's name.	
1 9	Whatever work you have to do, do not be lazy.	Jitne kum apne karan de houn, ohna de karan vich aalis nahee karnaa.
2 0	Listen to and carry out explanations of Gurbani and kirtan every day.	Gurbanee dee kathaa atae keertan roaz sunanaa tae karnaa.
2 1 .	Do not slander, or gossip, or be spiteful to anyone.	Kisae dee ninda, chugalee, atae eirkhaa nahee

		karnee.
1	Do not be proud of riches, youthfulness or lineage. (Regardless of maternal and paternal caste or heritage, all of the Guru's Sikhs are siblings of one family).	Dhan, javaanee, kul-jaat da maan naee karnaa.
3	Maintain a high standard of purity.	Mat uchee tae suchee rakhnee.
2 4	Continue performing pure (righteous)	Shubh karam kardae rahna.

	deeds.	
2 5	Appreciate intellect and power as gifts of God.	Budh bal da daataa vaheguroo noo jaananaa.
2 6	•	Kasam, saun chukan valae tae itbaar nahee karnaa.
2 7	Maintain independent rule (Khalistan). In the affairs of governing, do not give the power of religious	Sutantar vicharna. Raaj Kaaj dian kamaan tae doosrae mutaa dia purshaan noo huk nahee

	authority to those of other faiths.	daenaa.
2 8	Study and learn about how to rule.	Raajnitee vi parhnee.
2 9	When dealing with enemies, practice diplomacy, employ a variety of tactics, and exhaust all techniques before engaging in warfare.	Shatru (dushman) naal saam, daam, bhaed, aadiak, upau vartnae, uprant yudh karnaa dharam hai.
3		Shaster vidyaa tae

•	weaponry and horseriding.	ghorhae- savaari da abhiaas karnaa.
3 1	Study the books and beliefs of other faiths but maintain trust in the Guru's writings and God.	Doosrae dharama dian pustakhan, vidyaa parhnee, par bhrosaa drirh Gurbanee, Akaal Purakh utae hee rakhna.
3 2	Follow the Guru teachings.	Guru updesh dhaaran karnaa.
3		Raheraas da paath kar kharae karo

	prayers], stand up and perform Ardās.	kae ardaas karnee.
3 4	Before sleeping, recite Sohila Sahib (bedtime prayer) begginning "Pavan guru pani pita".	Saun sumae sohilaa da paath karna (pavan guru pani pita)' salok parhnaa.
3 5 .	Do not allow you hair to be uncovered (always wear a dastar).	Kesh nangai nahee raknae.
3 6 .	Address a Singh by their entire name including Singh (or Kaur),	Singhaa da pura naam lae ke bulaunaa,

	do not shorten it by half or call them by nicknames.	adha nahee.
3 7 .	Do not drink or provide alcoholic drinks.	Sharaab nai peenee-paalunee.
	Do not given a daughter's hand in marriage to one who cuts their hair. Give her to a household where God's Sikhs and tenets of Sikhism are respected.	Bhadnee (sir munae) noo kanaiaa nahee daevenee. Uos ghar daeve jithae Akal Purukh dee sikhee hovai.
3	Carry out pure	Subh kaaraj

9	actions in accordance with the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji and Gurbani.	Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji di tabhia te Gurbani anusaar karnae.
4 0	Do not ruin someones work by gossiping.	Chugalee kar kisae da kam nahee vigaarnaa.
4 1	Do not break someones heart by speaking in bitterness.	Kaurha bachan kar ke kise da heridha nahee dakhouna.
2	Only make pilgrimages to Gurdwaras.	Darshan yaatraa gurdwaaraan dee hee

		karnee.
4		Bachan
3	Keep all	karkae
•	promises made.	paalnaa.
		Athiti,
		pardaesee,
	Do as much	lorvaand,
	possible to	dukhee,
	serve and aid	apung
4	·	manukh dee
4	those in need,	yataahshkat
•	or in trouble.	seva karnee.
		Dhee
	Realize the	(putaree) dee
4	earnings of a	kumaee
5	daughter as	(dhan) bikh
•	poison.	kar jananaa.
4		Dikhaavae da
6	Do not become	Sikh nahee
•	a show-off Sikh.	bannaa.

4 7	Live and pass away as a Sikh with hair intact and unshorn. Respect you hair.	Sikhi kesaan suwaasaan sang nibhaaounee. Kesan nu gur smaan jaan adhub karna.
4 8	Do not become involved in theft, friendships, fraud, deception, and pillaging.	Chori, yaari, thugi, dhokaa, dagaa nahee karnaa.
4 9	Trust in a	Gursikh da itbaar
•	Gursikh.	karnaa.
5 0	Do not make false statements.	Jhutthi gavaahee nahee

		daenee.
5		Jhut nahee
1		kahna/
	Do not tell lies.	bolonaa.
		Langar
5	Serve langar	Parshaad ik
2	and prashaad	ras
	equally.	vartaaunaa.

5 Banis

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Five Banis to be read each morning and two evening prayers:

- Jap Ji Sahib and Shabad Hazaray
- Jaap Sahib
- Tav Prasad Swaiye
- Beynti Chaopai

- Anand Sahib and in the evening <u>Rehiras</u> (including Baynati Chaopai) and <u>Kirtan</u> <u>Sohila</u>.
- These banis were designated by Guru Gobind Singh as the daily practice of a Khalsa. See also <u>Bani</u>

Amrit sanchar

Amrit sanchar Nsacsry in Sikhism. When sikh take to amrit to five payare mean sikh in gurudwara. Then caled amritdhari means amrir taker